data base of Reserve Bank of India, therefore, does not generate information regarding cases pending in various courts relating to bouncing of cheques under the Negotiable Instruments Act. However, based on the information received from Public Sector Banks, there are at present about 3024 cheque bounce cases pending in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In order to reduce pendency, the Negotiable Instruments Act was amended in December, 2002 and a new Section 143 was inserted providing for summary trial of cases under the Act. The Section also provides that every endeavour shall be made by the Court to conclude the trial within six months of filing the complaint.

Exclusion of bank officials from purview of CVC

1436. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to exclude certain categories of bank officers from the purview of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To facilitate quick and efficient decision making, it had been proposed to the CVC to review its jurisdiction in respect of officers of public sector banks. However, at present, CVC has not agreed to the proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

Volcker report

1437. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the names of 125 Indian companies figure in the Volcker report which were involved in Oil-for-Food Programme of the UN in Iraq;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken a decision to check their Income Tax returns to find out the tax paid by them on the income earned by procuring contract for selling oil under the Oil-for-Food Programme of the UN; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) About 135 Indian companies figure in the Volcker Report on the Oil-for-Food Programme of UN in Iraq. The text of the report is available at the website www.iic-offp.org.

(c) and (d) The Income Tax Department has made preliminary enquiries into the transactions of some of the Indian persons/entities who have been listed in the said Report.

Capital boost to banking sector

1438. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a White Paper published by a global consulting firm to the effect that Indian banking sector will need at least a capital of Rs. 60,000 crores besides several policy changes and more customer focus to achieve 30 per cent annual growth through 2010;

(b) whether the above observation was taken in cognizance by the Government; and

(c) if so, the details of the actions initiated and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Government has not received any such communication. However, in view of the Basel-II prescriptions, the banks are required to maintain adequate capital commensurate to their Risk Weighted Assets. In the FM's meeting with the CEOs of public sector banks held on 18.11.2005, the public sector banks have been advised to augment their capital base by raising additional capital in accordance with the statutory provisions and RBI guidelines.